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5 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
6 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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8 IN RE: TFT-LCD (FLAT PANEL) ANTITRUST  
9 LITIGATION

No. M 07-1827 SI  
MDL No. 1827

10 This Order Relates To:

No. C 10-4572 SI

11 BEST BUY CO., INC., *et al.*,

12 Plaintiffs,

13 v.

14 AU OPTRONICS CORPORATION, *et al.*,

15 Defendants.  
16

**ORDER OVERRULING BEST BUY'S  
OBJECTION TO SPECIAL MASTER'S  
ORDER GRANTING HANNSTAR  
DISPLAY CORP.'S MOTION TO  
COMPEL**

17 Plaintiff Best Buy<sup>1</sup> has filed an objection to an order of the Special Master compelling it to  
18 produce its settlement agreement with Samsung. *See* Special Master's Order Re HannStar Display  
19 Corporation's Motion to Compel Best Buy to Respond Further to Document Request No. 45, Master  
20 Docket No. 4825 (February 15, 2012). Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7-1(b), the Court finds this matter  
21 suitable for decision without oral argument and therefore VACATES the hearing currently scheduled  
22 for April 6, 2012. Having considered the arguments presented in the moving papers, the Court hereby  
23 DENIES Best Buy's objection.

24 The Special Master's Order concerned Defendant's Request for Production No. 45, which sought  
25 "[a]ll documents reflecting any settlement or resolution of any claims threatened or asserted against any  
26 party . . . including but not limited to any entities identified as 'Co-Conspirators' in . . . the Complaint."  
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28 <sup>1</sup>Samsung joins in Best Buy's motion. In addition, Dell has filed a statement in support of Best Buy's objection in its direct action case. *See* Docket No. 185 in 10-1064; Master Docket No. 5066.

1 See Silberfeld Decl., Exh. B, at 2. Although Best Buy had reached a settlement with Samsung, it refused  
2 to produce the settlement agreement. *Id.* HannStar therefore moved to compel.

3 The Special Master granted HannStar's motion. See Silberfeld Decl., Exh. A. Although he did  
4 not find the settlement agreements "relevant to any party's claim or defense," he found that the  
5 agreement was relevant to the subject matter of the action and that good cause existed for its production.  
6 *Id.* at 3; see also Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). Specifically, the Special Master found that "fairness and the  
7 desirability of promoting settlements," as well as the interests of "transparency and full disclosure,"  
8 warranted production of the agreement.

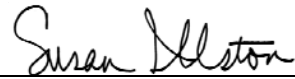
9 The discoverability of the settlement agreement is a legal question, which this Court reviews *de*  
10 *novo*. See Order Appointing Martin Quinn as Special Master, Master Docket No. 1679, at ¶18 (April  
11 12, 2010); Fed. R. Civ. P. 53(f)(3)-(5).

12 The Court agrees with the Special Master that good cause exists for production of the settlement  
13 agreement. The settlement agreement will permit defendants to understand the full extent of their  
14 potential liability. Further, the Court sees no prejudice to Best Buy or Samsung that will result from the  
15 agreement's disclosure. See *Bennett v. La Pere*, 112 F.R.D. 136, 140 (D.R.I. 1986) ("The court . . . is  
16 left with the distinct impression that the only 'prejudice' which disclosure will work vis-a-vis the  
17 plaintiffs is to rob them of the (unfair) tactical advantage which would attach to keeping the [Defendant]  
18 uninformed."). Nor does the Court agree with Best Buy's representations that disclosure will inhibit  
19 settlement across this MDL.

20 Accordingly, the Court DENIES Best Buy's objection to the Special Master's Order. Docket  
21 No. 4964 in 07-1827; Docket No. 121 in 10-4752.

22  
23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24  
25 Dated: April 4, 2012

26   
27 SUSAN ILLSTON  
28 United States District Judge